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**Pre-Presidents Medallion Match Play Championship**

**PMMC**

**COMMENTARY BY DAVID FAILURETEE**

The NCAA makes a big deal with a “Selection Show” announcing the field and seedings for the college basketball tournament in March. This issue of THE TEE BOX is the equivalent for the RIGC President’s Medallion Match Play Championship (PMMPC) which gets underway this coming Wednesday, 5-31, with 23 first round matches. In this issue I’ll pass along some match play tips, you’ll get an explanation from Handicap Chairman Miller as to how the bracket was created, and finally I’ll make my fearless forecast as to what will transpire in the action, along with the name of the eventual champion. Play well . . . DF

**MATCH PLAY TIPS . . . . . . . . DAVID FAILURETEE**

Anticipating the upcoming PMMPC, at “The Players” tournament I took the time to ask several PGA Tour pros for some tips on playing match play. Here’s are a few of the better tips I received:

1. For handicapped golfers, pros say conservative, smart play will almost always result in a match victory.
2. Try to get an early lead in a match, but be smart about it. Most handicapped golfers have a tough time recovering from a match deficit.
3. If you tee off first do everything possible to get you tee shot in the fairway, or at least close to the green on a par 3. Even if it means hitting less than a driver. This will put pressure on your opponent.
4. If your opponent tees off first and gets in trouble it’s time to really play smart and conservative. Never follow a bone head play by your opponent with one of your own!
5. Always keep track of what is going on with your opponent. That includes knowing when he is getting a stroke.
6. Never inform your opponent when he is to get a stroke. That’s for him to keep track of.
7. Always make sure your opponent knows when you are getting a stroke. Puts a little pressure on him. A little gamesmanship here.
8. If you are behind in a match, play as the pros say “Cautiously Aggressive”. This means attempt an aggressive shot when you feel there’s a good chance you can pull it off.
9. Don’t relax when you have a lead in a match. Now is the time to really focus on conservative, smart play. Force you opponent to attempt aggressive shots, which usually backfire.

Hopefully these tips will help you in your matches in the PMMPC. Good luck, DF

**CREATING THE BRACKET . . . HANDICAP CHAIRMAN MILLER**

Here is a brief and simplified explanation how I created the bracket. First I went to Brackets.com and printed out the bracket for 55 players. This showed 9 players with first round byes and 23 first round matches. When the matches are completed there will be a field of 32 players. I then seeded all of the 55 players #1 thru #55 using the GAM indexes as of 5-15-17. Ties were settled by looking at the index calculation on GAM. In doing the bracket there is an underlying assumption which is the player with the lower seed number will beat the player with the higher seed number. Players seeded #10 thru #55 are listed, and the top seed #1 plays the winner of the match between #32 and #33, the #2 seed plays the winner of the match between #31 and #34, #3 plays the winner of #30 vs #35, and #4 plays the winner of #29 vs #36, on and on. In the first round matches the seed numbers of the two players will add up to 65, which tells you the bracket was done correctly. In the NCAA b-ball tourney all of the first round seed numbers add up to 17 (#1 & #16, #2 & #15, etc.). Feel free to ask any questions, WM

**BRACKETOLOGY FOR THE PMMPC . . . DAVID FAILURETEE**

Here we go guys, time again for the annual President’s Medallion Match Play Championship (PMMPC) predictions by this prognosticator. I’ve studied the bracket and consulted my reliable Magic 8 Ball, glanced at a few tea leaves, and am ready to proceed.

In the Macallan 18 bracket I see McKay having a tough time with the winner of the Polizzi/Goldner match, both of whom have been playing well in 2017. Quintana better keep an eye on a possible matchup with Bonjernoor. Likewise Diedrich should watch out for Cooper and his updated index. Looks like Skiragis has a good road to the Sweet 16. So who are my two semi-finalists to come out of the Macallan 18 Bracket? I’m going with a low and mid handicapper . . . McKay and Cooper.

In the Pappy Van Winkle bracket, Fair should cruise to the Sweet 16. But both Solomon and Walenczak face tough possible second round matches vs Matthews (a former semi-finalist) and Dwyer who has been playing well. Hussong’s path looks good until a potential matchup with either Gross or Siegert. Gross is another hot golfer and could make lots of noise, as is Siegert with his new clubs. So, my picks to survive the Pappy bracket are . . . Dwyer and Siegert.

In the semi-finals I forsee Dwyer prevailing over Siegert, and McKay edging out Cooper. Both matches will be nail biters.

And in the final I predict McKay will win a close match over Dwyer and finally wear the coveted medallion for 2017. CONGRATULATIONS ROB!

**WRAP UP . . . . . . . DF**

It should be another knock down, drag out PMMPC this year, and I hope to get there for the second round matches to witness the action in person. Look for upsets in the 23 first round matches, and the 9 bye players being seriously challenged on 6-7. In other words, a typical match play tournament. Play safe, play smart . . . . . DF